

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-66 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 22 and 43 are independent.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method for technology exchange and collaboration in a system on a computer network comprising:

storing a first profile including a project description associated with a first member and a second profile including an interest description associated with a second member;

providing the first member access to a private area of a database enabling the first member to communicate confidential information;

comparing the first profile and the second profile to identify at least one common characteristic between the first member and the second member;

providing the second member with a result of the comparing step which includes the project description of the first member if the comparing step identifies at least one common characteristic;

delivering a request from the second member to the first member requesting a direct communication with the first member, wherein the request includes an identification of the second member thereby enabling the first member to determine whether the request for the direct communication is acceptable or not based on the identification of the second member without disclosing said first member's identification;

delivering a request from the first member to the second member responding to the request from the second member; and

permitting an exchange of confidential information between the first member and the second member within the private area only if the request from the first member indicates that the first member agrees to the direct communication.

2 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein the first profile and the second profile include a description segment and a search segment.

3 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 2, wherein the description segment includes at least one public characteristic and at least one private characteristic.

4 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 2, wherein the search segment includes at least one required element and at least one optional element.

5 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein the first profile and the second profile include at least one characteristic, and wherein comparing the first profile and the second profile further comprises: considering a degree of importance associated with each characteristic.

6 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein comparing the first profile and the second profile further comprises: displaying a member profile list that includes the first profile and the second profile.

7 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 1, wherein comparing the first profile and the second profile further comprises: displaying a project profile list that includes the first profile and the second profile.

8 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein the exchange involves an intellectual property asset.

9 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein the first member and the second member accede to the exchange.

10 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 9, wherein the first member and the second member accede to a standardized non-disclosure agreement.

11 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein permitting the exchange further comprises: monitoring the exchange.

12 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein permitting the exchange further comprises: automating the exchange.

13 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein the exchange includes the first member and the second member acceding to a standardized due diligence agreement.

14 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein the exchange includes the first member and the second member acceding to a standardized right of first refusal agreement.

15 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein the exchange includes the first member and the second member acceding to a standardized letter of intent.

16 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein the exchange includes the first member and the second member negotiating the terms of a transaction.

17 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein permitting the exchange further comprises: certifying the exchange.

18 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein the exchange is conducted in a secure storage area within the system that only the first entity and the second entity can access.

19 (ORIGINAL): The method of claim 1, wherein the exchange is conducted in a storage area outside the system and a secure link encrypts data communications between the first entity, the second entity, and the system.

20 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 1, further comprising: creating an account for a potential member of the system.

21 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 20, wherein creating the account further comprises: verifying whether the potential member satisfies at least one criterion.

22 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): A computer device facilitating technology exchange and collaboration in a system on a computer network comprising:

a memory device; and

a processor disposed in communication with the memory device, the processor configured to:

store a first profile including a project description associated with a first member and a second profile including an interest description associated with a second member;

provide the first member access to a private area of a database enabling the first member to communicate confidential information;

compare the first profile and the second profile to identify at least one common characteristic between the first member and the second member;

provide the second member with a result of the comparison which includes the project description of the first member if the comparison identifies at least one common characteristic;

deliver a request from the second member to the first member requesting a direct communication with the first member, wherein the request includes an identification of the second member thereby enabling the first member to determine whether the request for the direct communication is acceptable or not based on the identification of the second member without disclosing said first member's identification;

deliver a request from the first member to the second member responding to the request from the second member; and

permit an exchange of confidential information between the first member and the second member within the private area only if the request from the first member indicates that the first member agrees to the direct communication.

23 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the first profile and the second profile include a description segment and a search segment.

24 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 23, wherein the description segment includes at least one public characteristic and at least one private characteristic.

25 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 23, wherein the search segment includes at least one required element and at least one optional element.

26 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the first profile and the second profile include at least one characteristic, and wherein the processor is further configured to: consider a degree of importance associated with each characteristic.

27 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the processor is further configured to: display a member profile list that includes the first profile and the second profile.

28 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the processor is further configured to: display a project profile list that includes the first profile and the second profile.

29 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the exchange involves an intellectual property asset.

30 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the first member and the second member accede to the exchange.

31 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 30, wherein the first member and the second member accede to a standardized non-disclosure agreement.

32 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the processor is further configured to: monitor the exchange.

33 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the processor is further configured to: automate the exchange.

34 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the exchange includes the first member and the second member acceding to a standardized due diligence agreement.

35 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the exchange includes the first member and the second member acceding to a standardized right of first refusal agreement.

36 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the exchange includes the first member and the second member acceding to a standardized letter of intent.

37 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the exchange includes the first member and the second member negotiating the terms of a transaction.

38 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the processor is further configured to: certify the exchange.

39 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the exchange is conducted in a secure storage area within the system that only the first entity and the second entity can access.

40 (ORIGINAL): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the exchange is conducted in a storage area outside the system and a secure link encrypts data communications between the first entity, the second entity, and the system.

41 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the processor is further configured to: create an account for a potential member of the system.

42 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The computer device of claim 41, wherein the processor is further configured to: verify whether the potential member satisfies at least one criterion.

43 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): A computer readable medium comprising:

code for storing a first profile including a project description associated with a first member and a second profile including an interest description associated with a second member;

code for providing the first member access to a private area of a database enabling the first member to communicate confidential information;

code for comparing the first profile and the second profile to identify at least one common characteristic between the first member and the second member;

code for providing the second member with a result of the comparing step which includes the project description of the first member if the comparing step identifies at least one common characteristic;

code for delivering a request from the second member to the first member requesting a direct communication with the first member, wherein the request includes an

identification of the second member thereby enabling the first member to determine whether the request for the direct communication is acceptable or not based on the identification of the second member without disclosing said first member's identification;

code for delivering a request from the first member to the second member
responding to the request from the second member; and

code for permitting an exchange of confidential information between the first member and the second member within the private area only if the request from the first member indicates that the first member agrees to the direct communication.

44 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the first profile and the second profile include a description segment and a search segment.

45 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 44, wherein the description segment includes at least one public characteristic and at least one private characteristic.

46 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 44, wherein the search segment includes at least one required element and at least one optional element.

47 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the first profile and the second profile include at least one characteristic, and wherein the code for comparing the first profile and the second profile further comprises: code for considering a degree of importance associated with each characteristic.

48 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the code for comparing the first profile and the second profile further comprises: code for displaying a member profile list that includes the first profile and the second profile.

49 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the code for comparing the first profile and the second profile further comprises: code for displaying a project profile list that includes the first profile and the second profile.

50 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the exchange involves an intellectual property asset.

51 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the first member and the second member accede to the exchange.

52 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein the first member and the second member accede to a standardized non-disclosure agreement.

53 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the code for permitting the exchange further comprises: code for monitoring the exchange.

54 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the code for permitting the exchange further comprises: code for automating the exchange.

55 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the exchange includes the first member and the second member acceding to a standardized due diligence agreement.

56 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the exchange includes the first member and the second member acceding to a standardized right of first refusal agreement.

57 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the exchange includes the first member and the second member acceding to a standardized letter of intent.

58 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the exchange includes the first member and the second member negotiating the terms of a transaction.

59 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the code for permitting the exchange further comprises: code for certifying the exchange.

60 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the exchange is conducted in a secure storage area within the system that only the first entity and the second entity can access.

61 (ORIGINAL): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the exchange is conducted in a storage area outside the system and a secure link encrypts data communications between the first entity, the second entity, and the system.

62 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The computer readable medium of claim 43, further comprising: code for creating an account for a potential member of the system.

63 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The computer readable medium of claim 62, wherein the code for creating an account further comprises: code for verifying if the potential member satisfies at least one criterion.

64 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method of claim 1, wherein the first member checks whether there is a conflict in collaborating with the second member before delivering said request to the second member.

65 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The computer device of claim 22, wherein the first member checks whether there is a conflict in collaborating with the second member before delivering said request to the second member.

66 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein the first member checks whether there is a conflict in collaborating with the second member before delivering said request to the second member.